

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3046
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USINT HAVANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 00239

E.O. 11652 XGDS-1
TAGS: PINT, SP
SUBJECT: "WORLD FESTIVAL OF YOUTH AND STUDENTS" IN
HAVANA

1. JUAN ANTONIO BARRAGAN, SECGEN OF THE PSOE'S YOUTH WING, "JUVENTUDES SOCIALISTAS," RECENTLY TOLD EMBOFFS HIS AND OTHER SPANISH YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING THE GOVERNING UCD'S, WERE HARD AT WORK ON PREPARATIONS FOR SPANISH PARTICIPATION IN A HUGE YOUTH RALLY TO BE HELD IN HAVANA DURING THE SUMMER OF 1978 (BARRAGAN'S REMARKS WERE REPORTED TO THE DEPT BY MEMCON). BARRAGAN UNDERSTOOD THAT AS MANY AS 300,000 YOUNG PEOPLE WOULD BE IN ATTENDANCE, INCLUDING ABOUT 300 FROM SPAIN. HE EXPRESSED SOME SENSITIVITY OVER CHARGES OF SOVIET MANIPULATION OF THE CONGRESS, BUT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE CUBANS ALREADY HAD BEEN ALL TOO INTRUSIVE IN THE ORGANIZATION OF THE RALLY.

2. MORE RECENTLY, THE YOUTH WING OF THE SELF-STYLED MAOIST "WORKERS REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATION" (ORT), THE "JUVENTUDES MAOISTAS," ANNOUNCED AT THE TERMINATION
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OF THEIR JUST-CONCLUDED CONGRESS IN MADRID THAT THEY REJECTED THE "WORLD FESTIVAL OF YOUTH AND STUDENTS," SCHEDULED FOR HAVANA IN JUNE, AS A SOVIET PROPAGANDA EXERCISE, AND THEY CHARGED THAT SOVIET AMBASSADOR BOGOMOLOV HAD INSERTED HIMSELF INTO SPANISH PLANNING FOR THE RALLY. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THIS PRECIPITATED THE DEPARTURE FROM THE CONGRESS OF

OBSERVERS FROM OTHER YOUTH GROUPS, RANGING FROM UCD TO THE FAR-LEFT.

3. THE SPANISH ORGANIZING COMMITTEE FOR THE RALLY HAS NOW RESPONDED TO THE YOUNG MAOISTS' CHARGES WITH A COMMUNIQUE INSISTING THAT THE OBJECTIVES OF THE FESTIVAL ARE NONE OTHER THAN TO "DEVELOP PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP AMONG THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF THE WORLD." THE COMMUNIQUE AFFIRMS THAT SPANISH PARTICIPATION IN THE RALLY IS SUPPORTED BY THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND DENIES THAT BOGOMOLOV HAS PARTICIPATED IN ANY OF THE PLANNING MEETINGS, WHILE ADMITTING THAT A "REPRESENTATIVE" OF THE CUBAN EMBASSY IN MADRID ATTENDS AS AN OBSERVER.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: ANY INFORMATION ON THE FESTIVAL, ITS BACKGROUND AND SPONSORS WHICH THE DEPT OR OTHER ADDRESSEES CAN PROVIDE WOULD BE EXTREMELY HELPFUL TO US IN OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH UCD AND, PARTICULARLY, THE PSOE. STABLER

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